

Duenna: A Storybook Ending

In what can only be described as a storybook ending, Duenna overcame seemingly unbeatable odds, and driver Stanley Dancer conquered painful grief to win the 58th edition of the Hambletonian.

The drama of the 1983 Hambletonian began long before post time.

Dancer's prize colt, Dancer's Crown, overwhelming favorite to win that year's Hambletonian, died 18 days before the race of complications resulting from a displaced colon.

Dancer's hopes of winning the classic seemed all but gone, but owner Norman Woolworth gave Dancer a second chance—however remote it seemed—when he decided to bypass the Hambletonian Oaks and enter his filly against colts in the Hambletonian.

There were 25 names in the entry box, necessitating two divisions, with 12 and 13 respectively, in the first million dollar Hambletonian. Duenna and Winky's Gill were the only fillies.

In the first division, the highly regarded Joie De Vie, handled by John Campbell, conquered a second tier 12 post and a tough trip on

the outside to score over a sloppy oval in 1:59.

In the next division, Duenna also had to overcome a second tier post to win. Away exceptionally well, Duenna swept three-wide into the lead shortly after the half and drew away for an easy win in 1:57³.

In what turned out to be the final, Duenna easily won in 1:57², leading almost every step of the mile. There was a five-horse photo for second and the picture showed the other filly, Winky's Gill, a neck ahead of Speedy Claude for the place spot. Joie De Vie and Astro Hill dead-heated for fourth.

Duenna thus became the twelfth filly to win the prestigious Hambletonian, and the first since Kerry Way outclassed her field in 1966.

For Dancer, it was his fourth Hambletonian win, a feat accomplished at that time by only two other drivers: Ben White and Billy Haughton. (John Campbell joined that elite group in 1995 and went on to win his fifth and sixth Hambletonians in 1998 and 2006, respectively. In 2003 Mike Lachance became the fifth driver to win four Hambletonians.)



- First \$1,000,000 purse in the Hambletonian.
- Duenna was the twelfth filly to date to win the Hambletonian – the first filly winner since the Hambletonian Oaks was inaugurated in 1971.
- Trainer/driver Stanley Dancer won his fourth Hambletonian (record tying fifth as trainer). He is was the only driver to win the classic in three different decades. John Campbell joined him in 2006.
- For only the third time in the history of the classic, fillies finished 1-2 in the final as Winky's Gill was 3-x-2 in the heats. In 1927 Isola's Worthy and Nescopec were 1-2 in the final heat; Emily's Pride and Sandlewood were the first two across the wire in 1958.
- It was a storybook ending as 2-year-old champion Dancer's Crown, owned, trained and driven by Dancer, died just 18 days before the race.
- Duenna, a daughter of 1977 Hambletonian winner Green Speed, was voted Trotter of the Year. She passed away in early 2008 at age 28.

DUENNA, b f, by Green Speed—La Soubrette, by Nevele Pride
 Driver: Stanley Dancer Trainer: Stanley Dancer
 Owner & Breeder: Clearview Stable, New Canaan, CT
 Groom: Tania Holiverda . . . x 1 1

JOIE DE VIE, Super Bowl—Heidi Rodney, by Duke Rodney
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Howard Beissinger
 Owner: M. Siegel, Crown Stable, P. Nigito and Lana Lobell Farm
 . . . 1 x 4(DH)

WINKY'S GILL, Bonefish—Lassie Blue Chip, by Speedy Scot
 Driver: Hakan Wallner Trainer: Jan Johnson
 Owner: Castleton Farms . . . 3 x 2

ASTRO HILL, Speedy Crown—Another Love, by Blaze Hanover
 Driver: Ray Remmen Trainer: Howard Beissinger
 Owner: W. Rosenberg, J. Mendelson, Crown Stable, Inc., and A. Beissinger . . . 2 x 4(DH)

T V YANKEE, Speedy Crown—Yankee Bambi, by Hickory Pride
 Driver: Tom Haughton Trainer: William Haughton
 Owner: Leon and Lorraine R. Machiz. . . x 2 6

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE	
1st Heat		:28 ⁴	:57 ¹	1:28	1:59
1st Heat, 2nd Div.		:30	:59 ²	1:27 ⁴	1:57 ³
Final		:29 ¹	:58 ²	1:27 ³	1:57 ²

Also competed: Speedy Claude 4-x-3, Nevele Action 3-x-9, Sea Chanty x-4-7, Premium Lobell 4-x-10, Lass Quick, 5-x-8, Play Action, 6-x-ro; Shane T. Hanover, x-6-ro; Power Seat, 7-x-ro; Desert Night, x-7-ro; Mr Drew, 8-x-ro; Grand Rapids, x-8-ro; Brittany Bay 9-x-ro; Yankee Peak, x-9-ro; Coleman Lobell, 10-x-ro; Micron Hanover, x-10-ro; Speed Anthony, 11-x-ro; Brookside Pride, x-11-ro; Super Spy, 12-x-ro; Florida Sun, x-12-ro; Sherwood Lobell, x-13-ro.



PAYOFFS

FIRST HEAT, FIRST ELIMINATION

Joie De Vie	3.20	3.20	2.40
Astro Hill		3.20	2.40
Winkys Gill			3.00
EXACTA:			10.40

FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION

Duenna	8.00	3.60	3.00
T V Yankee		3.00	2.60
Nevele Action			3.40
EXACTA:			22.60

FINAL HEAT

Duenna	5.60	5.20	8.80
Winkys Gill		14.00	16.80
Speedy Claude			25.20
EXACTA:			82.80